



City of Rockville, Maryland

**Mayor and Council Walking Town Meeting with the
East Rockville Civic Association
Saturday, April 18, 2015**

Meeting No. 19-15

**Park Road & North Stone Street
10:00 am – 12 Noon**

Agenda

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, at 10:00 am, the Mayor and Council of Rockville will conduct a Walking Town Meeting in the East Rockville Neighborhood. The meeting will begin at Park Road & North Stone Street and proceed along North Stone Street, England Terrace, North Grandin, Park Road, South Stone Street and Highland Avenue.

Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland

Attest: Sara Taylor-Ferrell, Acting City Clerk/Treasurer



City of Rockville Mayor and Council Agenda Item

For the meeting on:	April 18, 2015
Agenda Item Type:	Worksession
Department:	City Manager
Responsible staff:	Jenny Kimball, Deputy City Manager phone: (240) 314 - 8104 email: jkimball@rockvillemd.gov

Subject

Walking Town Meeting in East Rockville

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council conduct a walking town meeting in the East Rockville neighborhood with the East Rockville Civic Association.

Discussion

The Mayor and Councilmembers will hold a walking town meeting with the East Rockville Civic Association (ERCA) on April 18, 2015 from 10:00 am to 12 noon. Participants will meet at the intersection of Park Road and North Stonestreet Avenue for a walk through the neighborhood along a route identified by the ERCA president (Attachment A.) ERCA also provided a list and description of ten items to view and discuss during the walk (Attachment B.) The walk will conclude at the Pump House at 401 South Horners Lane.

Free parking is available adjacent to the starting point at the Rockville Metro Station. The parking lot is one quarter of a mile from the conclusion of the walk. The full loop is approximately 1 mile in length.

The Mayor and Councilmembers will be joined by the City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney and key department heads for a leisurely walk and conversation with the neighborhood president and residents, who are invited to share observations and ask questions along the way.

Mayor and Council History

The Mayor and Council held walking town meetings in the North Farm and Potomac Woods neighborhoods on June 30, 2014 and October 18, 2014, respectively. A walking town meeting in Twinbrook is scheduled for June 6, 2015.

Public Notification and Engagement

The City Clerk's Office advertised the meeting as required for all Mayor and Council meetings. The East Rockville Civic Association notified the neighbors using the neighborhood listserv, civic association website and the April civic association meeting.

Next Steps

Staff will follow up with the neighborhood on any outstanding issues or questions following the meeting.

Attachments



Attachment A East Rockville Walking Town Meeting Map.pdf



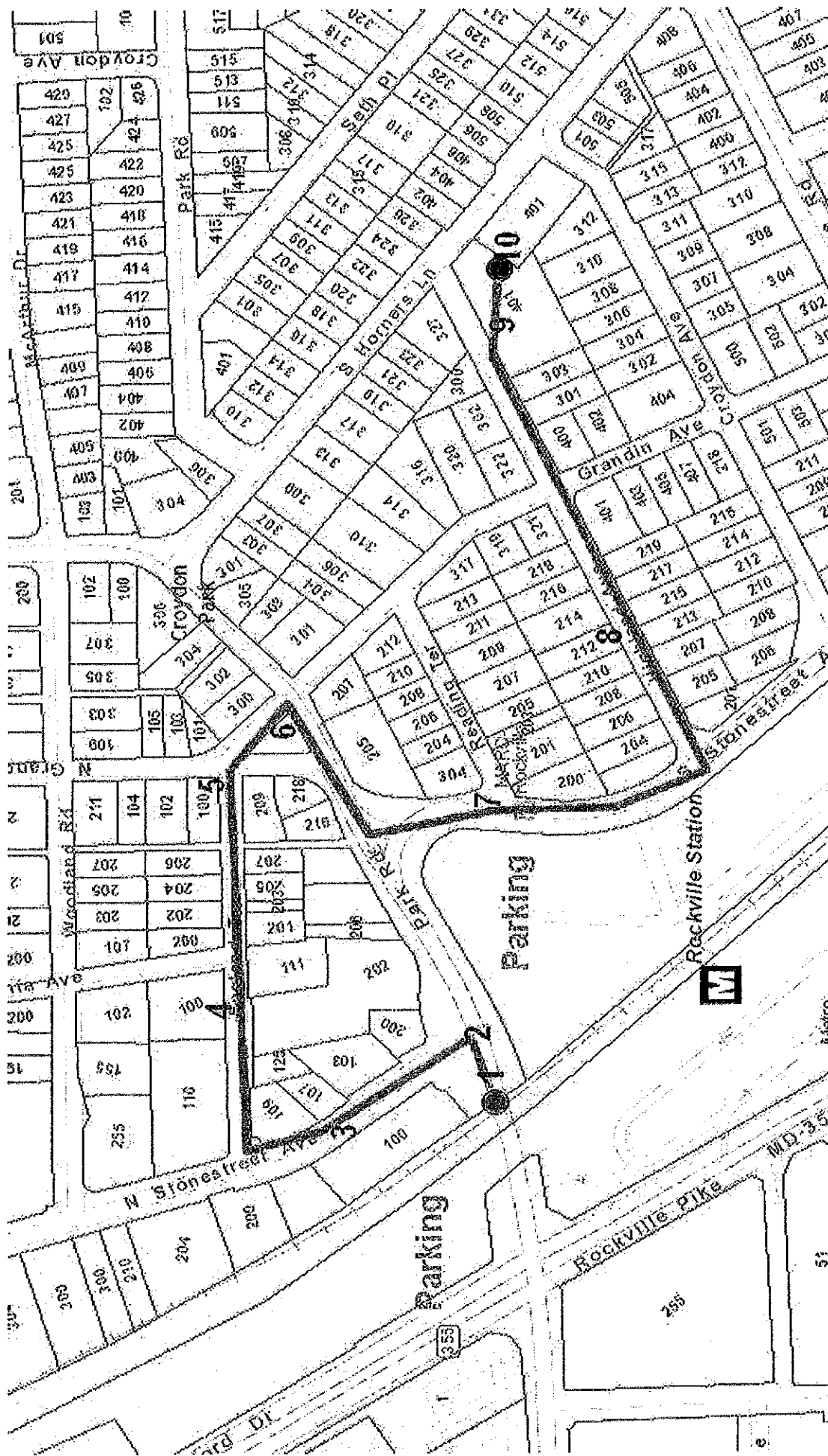
Attachment B East Rockville Walking Town Meeting Points of Interest.pdf

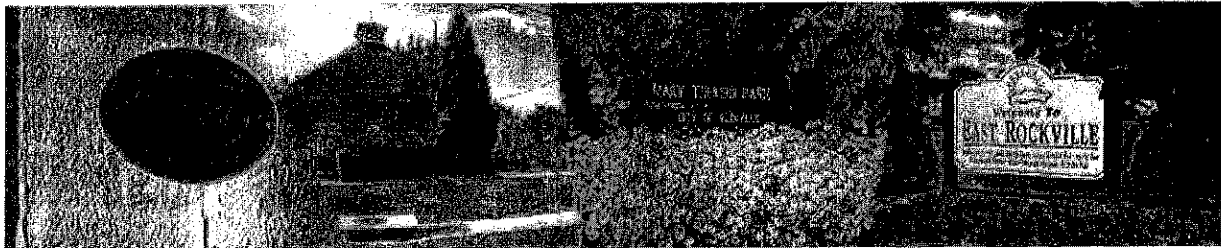
City Manager

Barbara B. Matthews

City Manager: Barbara B. Matthews, City Manager
Approval Date: 04/14/2015

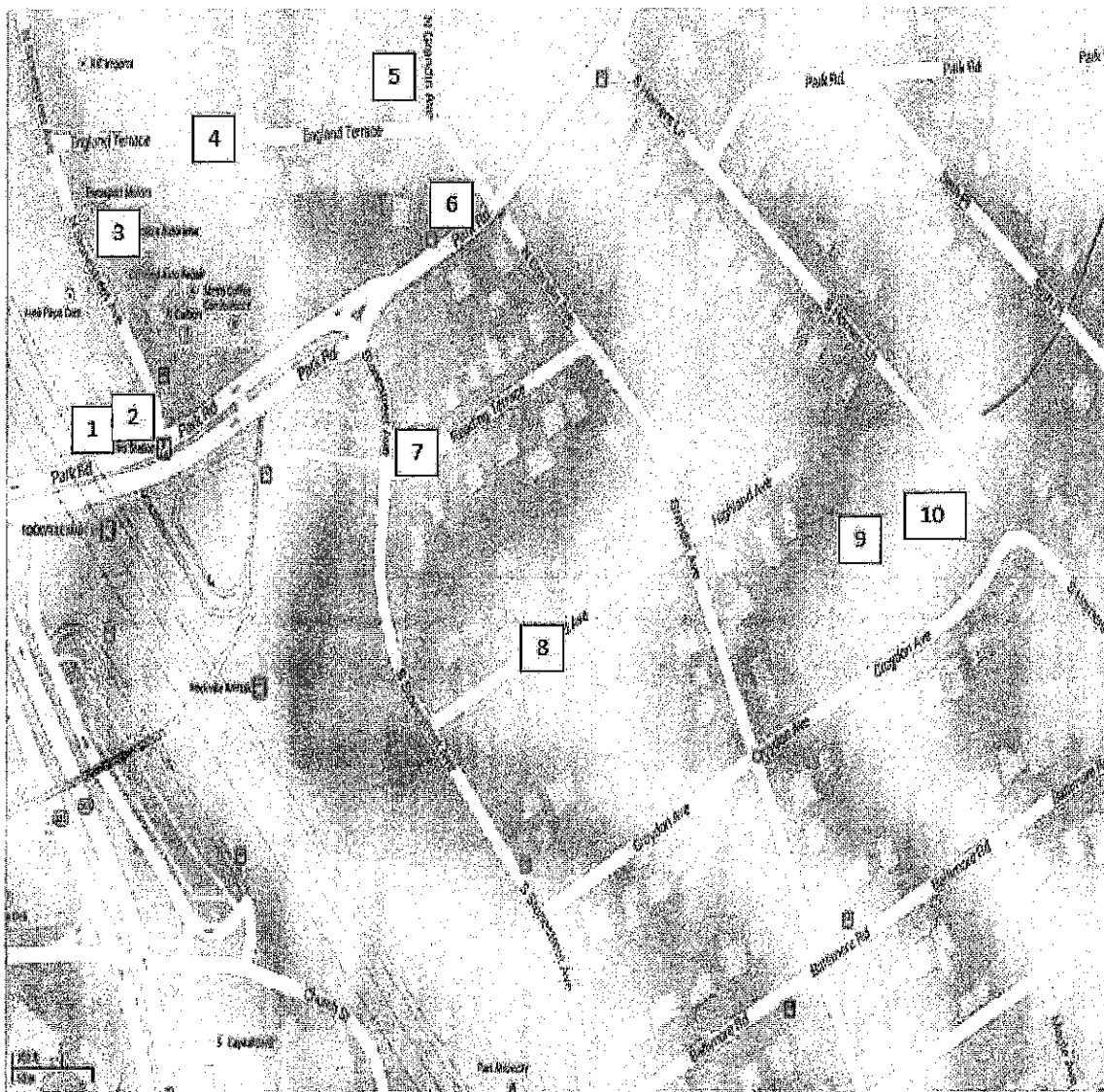
Attachment A






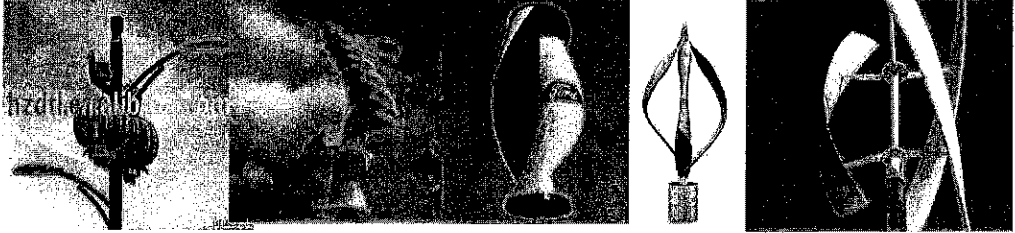
**East Rockville Walking Town Meeting
City of Rockville Mayor and Council
Hosted by ERCA**

**April 18th, 2015
10:00 AM - Noon**



Walking Route

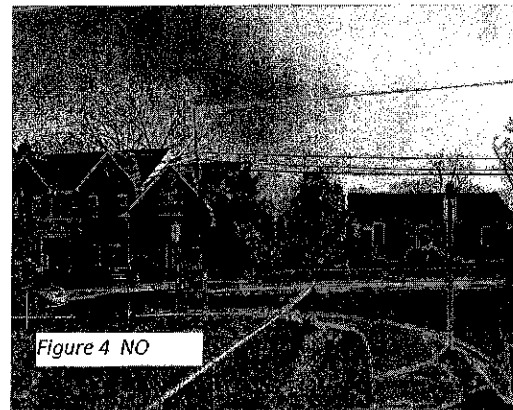
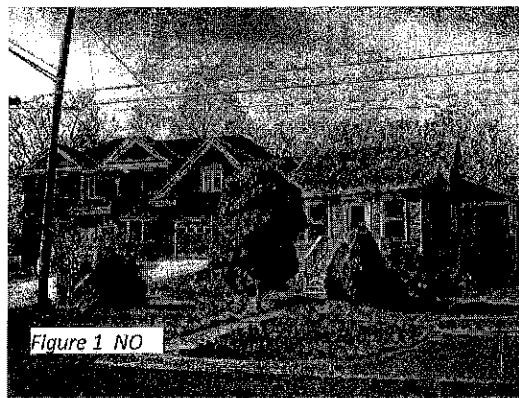
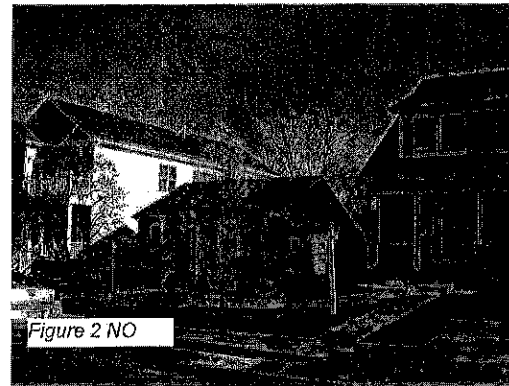
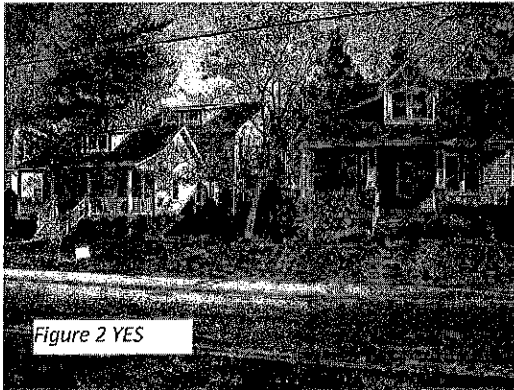
1. CSX Underpass: Start at Park Road and North Stonestreet Avenue
2. Pocket parks: Park Road and North Stonestreet Avenue.
3. North Stonestreet Business Corridor: North Stonestreet Avenue.
4. England Terrace Alley: North Stonestreet Avenue and England Terrace
5. Mansionization in ER: 102 North Grandin Avenue
6. Mary Trumbo Park: North Grandin Avenue and Park Road
7. Speeding in east Rockville: 300-400 block of South Stonestreet Avenue
8. B&Bs. Boarding and Rental house licenses: 200 block Highland Avenue
9. Landscaping in Pump House Park, tree preservation: back of park
10. Pump House; 401 South Horners Lane


SITE	TALKING POINT
1.	<p><u>CSX Underpass:</u> This is a gateway to Rockville's jewel - Town Center. CSX will never give permission to do anything to improve its appearance but dollars to donuts CSX would never know or even say anything if the City just applied a coat of industrial grade paint to the trestle and concrete abutment underpass. We have been asking for something to be done here for close to 25 years – come on City get creative. If tiny Newark, DE can do it why can't Rockville?</p> 
2.	<p><u>Pocket Parks and alleys other uses?:</u> Thank you Rob Orndorff for his excellent work on creating and maintaining these tiny pocket parks such as this one and the three or four others in ER. Maybe more can be found. Maybe the City should consider closing all undeveloped and abandoned alleys throughout ER and turn property to adjoining property owners or consider public use space: gardens, solar arrays? Small wind turbines and small electrical cooperatives for adjoining property owners? Some pictures of small wind turbines.</p> 
3.	<p><u>North Stonestreet Avenue business corridor:</u> The Metro station redevelopment is years away but it WILL happen. This was supposed to be almost an annex to Town Square – pedestrian accessible with inviting businesses, an arts friendly community and a science center. It still can be. An additional RR pedestrian overpass say in line with Beall Avenue would help.</p>
4.	<p><u>Alley from North Stonestreet Avenue to England Terrace:</u> We were promised that as part of last year's annual paving that this City owned alley would be repaved and some of the overgrown vegetation would be cleared. It wasn't. An additional pole light would be welcomed too.</p>

5.

102 Grandin Avenue, AKA "The White Whale" - too much Mansionization:

: Code enforcement of the INTENT of the East Rockville Neighborhood Plan. Help us rewrite it so it is enforceable; give us the words. Make the implementation of a neighborhood wide conservation plan easier. Enforce hard surface percentage of lot coverage. As part of City's Master Plan reworking – consider a City wide code that helps existing home owners prevent getting walled in by McMansions by encouraging smart architectural design that respects the sunlight and privacy rights of neighbors and is scaled to existing surrounding houses It can and has been done here in ER.



6.	<u>Mary Trumbo Park:</u> An ER jewel. Thanks to Rob Daniels and the City for maintaining this beautiful park. Again consider ferreting out more areas in ER for greenspace use
7.	<p><u>Speeding In East Rockville:</u> This road, Baltimore Road and Crabbe Avenue have been problems for years. Cars normally do 40-60 MPH. The pedestrian crosswalk and light are often ignored. We NEED a 4-way stop at Baltimore Road and South Stonestreet Avenue, no more excuses about rear-end collisions; that is the drivers problem not ER's to solve. If they were doing 25 MPH they would be able to stop in time. Why can't we get a few dynamic speed limit signs? Grandin Avenue has two in a four block stretch in Twinbrook. West End has one on Maryland Avenue near City hall; why not ER? Planned Road improvements to mitigate speeding keep getting pushed back till "tomorrow" and to quote Tom Fogerty "tomorrow never comes"; we need solutions today. Residents have already put their money where their mouth is by buying and posting their own speed limit signs along Baltimore Road; it's not enough we need the City's help to enforce it.</p> 
8.	<p><u>Are all B&B's and Rental Houses in ER Licwnsed and monitored:</u> WE may need more aggressive code enforcement for rentals and de facto boarding houses. Do people who rent out bedrooms require licenses and inspections? Check AIRBNB.COM and you will see several houses in ER and this street are renting rooms by the month, week or even day; sounds like a hotel to us in an R60 zone? All of these properties have apparently done this recently - 209 Reading Terrace, 201 Highland Avenue, 213 Highland Avenue and 406 McArthur Drive.</p>
9.	<p><u>Pump House Park tree scape preservation:</u> Improve landscaping in rear of park to prevent large puddle near the fence; can anything be done? Educate adjoining homeowners about inexpensive ways to remove ivy from large old trees; it is killing them. This will reduce the tree cover in ER and city wide as these are very large and very old trees. We were already recently decimated by PEPCO's tree cutting program in recent years. Rockville is a Tree City and should encourage the preservation and nurturing of its mature trees even on private property throughout the City.</p>
10.	<p><u>The Pump House:</u> Another gem in ER. The City should consider adding solar panels to the large South West facing roof</p>